

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

#3580

January 4, 1926.

3
2047-182

3 1

10
J.R.
52

Subject: Report on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED G/2 W.D. FEB 3 - 1926.

1. On December 13th. "La Prensa" published an editorial which commented upon the fears expressed by the Director General of the Pan American Union that the entrance of the Latin American countries into the League of Nations constitutes a great peril for the United States in that it would ultimately lessen the ties between the United States, and other Latin American countries, and lead to its isolation. This editorial spoke of the cordial relations between the United States and other nations of the western hemisphere, and the opinion was expressed that the United States has nothing to fear on account of the entrance of Latin American Nations into the League.

✓ 2. The local press followed the Mitchell court martial quite closely. Extracts from an editorial in "La Prensa" bearing on the securing of contracts for aeroplane bases by foreign countries in the proximity of the Panama Canal are as follows:

"The United States Air Service cannot interfere with the making of those contracts which directly benefit the contracting countries. There is no treaty in force which opposes it nor has Washington any agreement with any Central American country in regard to it. The only way of stopping these contracts would have been to make similar contracts with greater advantages than those which have been made or are to be carried out soon, and this would not have been difficult."

"We believe that there exists in the American Air Service excessive precaution and suspicion in relation to Central and South American countries concerning the entrance of Latin American nations into the League of Nations. The commercial, cultural, scientific and other relations existing between Latin American and other countries which are in no way in violation to existing treaties could not alter Panamerican harmony."

✓2. The graduating exercises of the 1925 class of the Military College at San Martin were held on December 22nd at 9 a.m. These exercises resembled those at West Point very much. A very impressive ceremony was held which is called "Oath to the Flag" for which the cadet companies were formed in line, and together oath was given to faithfully serve the flag. The graduating class then marched by the flag in column of squads at about 10 pace intervals between ranks, and each rank individually saluted the flag, and then proceeded to the graduating exercises. The exercises were an open air performance in which the Director of the School gave an address to the class, the Minister of War spoke a few words to the cadet that carried the class honors, and a representative of a Woman's Patriotic Society gave quite a lengthy discourse to the cadet who stood first in conduct in his class. The President of the Nation shook hands with each cadet and handed him his diploma. Thirty-eight graduates were assigned to the Infantry, 15 to the Cavalry, 21 to the Artillery and 13 to the Engineers. The graduates were a very well set up and "snappy" looking bunch of men, and looked as though they would make a good lot of officers.

3. The extraordinary session of Congress which was called early in November has been dissolved with practically nothing accomplished. Quite a few urgent measures which had been advocated by the President were untouched. The budget was not passed and there is no legal authority to spend money or to pay salaries after January 1st. The only way out of the difficulty it appears will be to have recourse to the old practise of sanctioning monthly amounts to meet current expenses.

4. During a heavy storm in the afternoon of December 28th lightening set fire to one of the petroleum tanks located at the South Dock belonging to the Compañia General de Combustibles, an Argentine concern distributing petroleum throughout the city of Buenos Aires. The company possessed five tanks, all filled with petroleum from Comodoro Rivadavia, and all eventually caught on fire. The quantity of petroleum burned is estimated at 20,000 tons. The total loss is estimated at \$2,000,000 m/n. The Anglo-Mexican tanks located alongside were saved by the city Fire Brigade. This is said to be one of the biggest fires which has occurred in Buenos Aires for years.

✓5. It is not expected that there will be any material change in the Army organization when the new class of conscripts reports for duty. The Army, with few small exceptions will be the same as last year. The 1905 class of conscripts for the army will begin reporting to the military districts on January 11th, and the naval conscripts will begin reporting January 4, 1926.

6. Argentina paid her yearly quota of \$396,159 m/n for 1935 as its dues as a member of the League of Nations recently.

R.W. Dusenbury
R.W. DUSENBURY,
Military Attaché.

AMERICAN EMBASSY
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

3662

July 13, 1926.

23
2048-182
AUG 7
3-1
WAR DEPARTMENT
M
cc: 9/1/26
B.C.

Subject: Comment on Current Events.

To: A.C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED BY MAIL AUG 6 1926

1. On June 8th I left on a trip for Paraguay in compliance with cablegram May 28th from the Adjutant General, and remained there until the end of the month.

✓ 2. The Army has been reorganized since last year, and information on the new reorganization will follow shortly.

✓ 3. The new French Mission had arrived about one week prior to my visit and was preparing to hold classes for officers who have been detailed to take the course at the Military School. I had several talks with General Rojas, Chief of Staff, and he is not at all in favor of the French Mission, and I believe he would be glad to get rid of it if he could. He seems to think that the French Mission was "put over" on the Army for political reasons. He would like to have another German Mission if such a thing were possible, and in lieu of a German Mission a Chilean Mission. General Sohenoni, the Inspector General was in favor of an American Mission if one were obtainable. If the French Mission remains, there will probably be a new reorganization in the near future. The mission is somewhat handicapped in view of the fact that only one officer out of the five speaks very little Spanish.

The Army was formerly trained according to German methods, but it is expected that now it will give away entirely to the French training. Army munitions will also be purchased in France probably. There is a need of replacing much of the present army equipment.

4. I found very great improvement in Paraguay this year as compared with last. The government seems stable, and there does not seem to be any rumors of further revolutions. As an evidence of some of the signs of improvement in Asuncion there was quite a good deal of building going on, some roads are being improved, and there seem to be a great many more automobiles on the streets this year than last.

5. Mr. Kreeck, our Minister in Paraguay, is probably

the most popular foreign diplomat there, and he has done much to further good will towards our country.

6. In regard to evaluation report dated May 21, 1926 on radical activities, contact has been maintained with the police and Liga Patriótica for some time prior to the bomb explosion at the American Embassy, and according to their statements there was very little radical activity in the country. After the explosion took place, about 100 arrests were made of suspects, but to date the guilty parties have not been found. Further information on radical activities will be forwarded later.

7. Concerning the proposal for the impeachment of the President made by the Irigoyen bloc in Congress as stated in the American press, I do not believe that since my arrival in Buenos Aires any such proposal has been made. No dispatches have been forwarded from the Embassy to that effect, and nobody in the Embassy is aware of any such movement.

8. Congress was inaugurated on July 1st, but to date nothing has been accomplished, and I believe that the present session will be as fruitless as the last one. The president has lost much of the strength which he had last year as a result of the March elections.

9. The delay in submitting information asked for in other evaluation reports has been due to the difficulty in getting the information requested. Most of these reports have now been written up and will be forwarded in due course.

10. It is reported that Cavalry manoeuvres will probably be held in the month of October near Monte Caseros, Corrientes.

11. Independence Day, July 9th was celebrated as usual in Buenos Aires with a ceremony similar to last year. A church service is first held at which the President and high government officials and members of the diplomatic corps are present, and this is followed by a military review in which all the available troops from the First and Second Divisions, the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, the Navy and Military and Naval Schools take part. The President received the review at Government House. A reception followed for the Diplomatic Corps.

12. Mr. Jay, our Ambassador has been seriously ill with bronchial trouble since early in June, and has been unable to be present at the Embassy for over one month. A large reception which he had planned for July 4th had to be cancelled.

A Fourth of July dinner was given at the Plaza Hotel which was attended by about 300 Americans including also the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Gallardo and Dr. Pueyrredón, the Argentine Ambassador to the United States.

R. W. Dusenbury
R. W. DUSENBURY,
Military Attaché.